

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A system for providing access to a communications network via an electrical network of a building, comprising:

a host unit disposed inside the building and having a first interface and a second interface, the first interface being coupled to the communications network via a connection device, the second interface being coupled to the electrical network of the building via a power distribution facility; and

a subscriber unit disposed inside the building and having a first interface that is coupled to the electrical network, the subscriber unit being in communications with the host unit via the electrical network of the building,

15 wherein the host unit receives communications signals from the communications network via the connection device, and

wherein the subscriber unit receives the communications signals from the host unit via the electrical network of the building.

20 2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the connection device is a router.

3. The system according to claim 2, wherein the router is a digital subscriber line (DSL) router.

4. The system according to claim 1, wherein the connection device is a switch.

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5. The system according to claim 5, wherein the switch is an ethernet switch.

6. The system according to claim 1, wherein the connection device is a hub.

10 7. The system according to claim 6, wherein the hub is an ethernet hub.

8. The system according to claim 1, wherein the connection device is in communications with the communications network via a public telecommunications network equipment.

15 9. The system according to claim 8, wherein the modem is an asymmetric digital subscriber line (ADSL) modem.

10. The system according to claim 1, wherein the host unit is a plurality of host units, each host unit being directly connected to the connection device.

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11. The system according to claim 1, wherein the first interface of the host unit is coupled to the connection device via a high-speed cable.

12. The system according to claim 1, wherein the first interface of the host unit
is coupled to the connection device via at least one of a category 5 (CAT5) twisted pair
cable, a CAT3 twisted pair cable, a single-mode optical fiber cable and a multimode optical
fiber cable.

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13. The system according to claim 1, wherein the connection device is in wireless
communications with the communications network.

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14. The system according to claim 1, wherein the connection device is coupled
to the communications network via at least one of a category 5 (CAT5) twisted pair cable,
a CAT3 twisted pair cable, a single-mode optical fiber cable and a multimode optical fiber
fiber cable.

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15. A system for providing access to an internet via an electrical network of a
particular building to subscriber units disposed in the particular building, comprising:

a router coupled to the internet;
a plurality of host units disposed on different floors of the particular building, each
host unit having a first interface and a second interface, each first interface being coupled to
20 the router via a respective network cable, each second interface being coupled to the
electrical network of the particular building via a respective power distribution point of the
particular building; and

a plurality of the subscriber units disposed inside the particular building and having

a first interface that is coupled to the electrical network, the subscriber unit being in communications with the host unit via the electrical network of the particular building,

wherein the router receives data packets from the internet,

wherein one or more host units receive the data packets from the router, and

5 wherein the plurality of subscriber units receive the data packets from the one or more host units via the electrical network of the particular building.

16. A method for providing access to a communications network via an electrical network of a building, comprising the steps of:

10 (a) wiring a plurality of host units to power distribution points in the building;

 (b) coupling the plurality of host units to a connection device;

 (c) coupling the connection device to the communications network;

 (d) coupling a plurality of subscriber units in communications with the plurality of the host units via the electrical network of the building; and

15 (e) distributing information from the communications network to subscriber units in the building via the plurality of host units.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein step (b) includes the step of connecting the plurality of the host units to an ethernet hub.

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18. The method according to claim 16, wherein step (b) includes the step of connecting the plurality of the host units to a digital subscriber line (DSL) router.

19. The method according to claim 16, wherein step (b) includes the step of connecting the plurality of the host units to an ethernet switch.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein step (b) includes the step of connecting the plurality of the host units to the connection device via category 5 (CAT5) twisted pair cables.

5 21. The method of claim 16, wherein step (b) includes the step of connecting the plurality of the host units to the connection device via fiber cables.

10 22. The method according to claim 16, wherein step (c) includes the step of connecting the connection device to a public telecommunications network equipment via a category 5 (CAT5) twisted pair cable or a CAT 3 twisted pair cable.

15 23. The method according to claim 22, further comprising the step of: coupling the public telecommunications network equipment to the communications network via another CAT 3 twisted pair cable.

20 24. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of:
(f) coupling a first subscriber unit of the plurality of the subscriber units in communications with a second subscriber unit of the plurality of the subscriber units via a particular host unit.